

Some observations on special speech styles in Tomini-Tolitoli languages

Nikolaus P. Himmelmann & Sonja Riesberg
University of Cologne

This talk will focus on three different types of special speech styles in Tomini-Tolitoli languages.

First, it will take a brief look at special words which are not part of the native vocabulary and which are usually characterized as being *kuno*: For example Dondo and Totoli have special series of numerals made up of what appears to be non-sense words. It is also common that special phrases made up of unknown words appear in traditional folk tales, such as “The turtle and the monkey”.

Second, this talk will present an example of the special speech style called *Morapang* in Lauje. This speech style consists of formulas involving terms of address and highly figurative speech delivered in a very special prosodic style which gives the impression of very fast speech. It is traditionally used for proposing.

Third, we will discuss a competitive song style found in Totoli, where it is known as *Lelegesan*. Here two or more singers compete in creating entertaining two- or four-liners, the first line of which always consists of the name of a leaf, the other lines being rhymed *ad hoc*. The *Lelegesan* is sung accompanied by a kind of ukulele.